

Message Text

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SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN

LUXEMBOURG PRESS JUNE 22 CARRIED SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN IN JUNE ISSUE OF MAGAZINE "30 JOURS D'EUROPE." STATEMENTS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER THORN IN THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING (ALL STATEMENTS ARE DIRECT QUOTES TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH):

1. IT IS IN THE APPROACH TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS PROBABLY FURTHEST REMOVED FROM US. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT IS BECAUSE HE DOES NOT HAVE ADVISERS WHO ARE SUFFICIENTLY OPEN TO EUROPEAN PROBLEMS. BUT I DO SEE THAT IT IS ONLY ROBERT STRAUXSS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS (SIC), WHO CAN GIVE HIM GOOD ADVICE.

2. THE ADVISERS TO PRESIDENT CARTER ARE NOT

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ABLE TO CONCEIVE THAT THE CONTRADICTIONS IN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE MOST VULNERABLE POINTS RISK LEADING TO A CHANGE IN THE SYSTEM IN THESE COUNTRIES. THAT IS A DANGER THAT ONE PERCEIVES EXPECIALLY, BUT NOT UNIQUELY, IN ITALY. I AM AFRAID, ALAS, THAT THE IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE

OF THE PRESIDENT IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY SENSITIVE TO THIS PROBLEM.

3. THE RESPONSIBLE AMERICANS, THOSE WHO ARE AT THE LEVERS OF POWER, ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY SENSITIVE TO THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION. THEY DO NOT TAKE INTO SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT, IN MY OPINION, HOW MUCH THE FALL OF THE DOLLAR CAN CREATE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN EUROPE.

4. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE ARE THREATENED WITH SEEING AN AMERICAN TURNED IN ON ITSELF. THAT IS A DANGER WHICH ONE UNDERESTIMATES GREATLY MIN EUROPE. I HAVE COME TO REALIZE RECENTLY THAT THERE ARE MANY AMERICANS WHO DO NOT WANT TO SAY THAT THEY ARE ISOLATIONISTS BUT WHO TRY, IN A DISGUISED MANNER, TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS. BETWEEN AMERICANS AND NON-AMERICANS. THEY TRY TO PROVOKE FRUSTRATIONS AND DISAPPOINTMENTS IN ORDER TO SEIZE ON THEM AND EXPLOIT THEM IN THE POLITICAL WORLD AND IN AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION SAYING: LOOK HOW BADLY THEY HAVE RESPONDED TO US, HOW BADLY THEY HAVE TREATED US.

5. MR.C CARTER SEEMS TO ME TO BE FAR FROM BEING AN ADVERSARY OF EUROPE. THAT IS MY IMPRESSION
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FROM OUR BILATERAL PERSONAL RELATIONS. CERTAINLY, HE IS DISCONCERTING IN THE WAY HE HANDLES CERTAIN PROBLEMS--I AM THINKING PARTICULARLY OF THE NEUTRON BOMB. BUT I BELIEVE THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE TO THINK THAT HE IS A FICKLE MAN, BECAUSE HE IS RATHER A MAN OF CONVICTION; IT IS THAT WHICH OFTEN COMPLICATES THAT ANALYSIS OF THE DIRECTION OF HIS THINKING.

6. ONE MUST NOT EXAGGERATE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE CHINA MARKET EVEN IF ITS EXPLOITATION IS JUST BEGINNING AND EVEN IF CHINA EVOLVES. THE CHINESE ARE MANIFESTLY PERSUADED THT WHAT GIVES THEM THEIR STRENGTH IS TO LIVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN A SITUATION OF AUTARCHY. ONE MUST NOT HOPE, MTHEREFORE, THAT CHINA WILL EVER CHANGE INTO A FREE EXCHANGE ECONOMY. CHINA WILLDO ITS BEST ALWAYS NOT TO BE CONTAMINATED AND NOT TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON THE WEST.

7. IF THERE WERE A SERIOUS CHOICE BETWEEN ENLARGEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMUNITY,

I WOULD OPT FOR STRENGTHENING--THAT IS, FOR
IMPROVING ITS STRUCTURES, ITS POLICIES AND THE
FUNCTIONING OF THE COMMUNITY. THEN WHY AM I
FOR ENLARGEMENT? BECAUSE I AM AFRAID THAT WE
WOULD NOT STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY EVEN IF THERE
WERE NO DEMAND FOR ENLARGEMENT. ENLARGEMENT
OFFERS US THE ONLY CHANCE FOR ATTACKING THE
PROBLEMS OF THE COMMUNITY. LOWENSTEIN

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